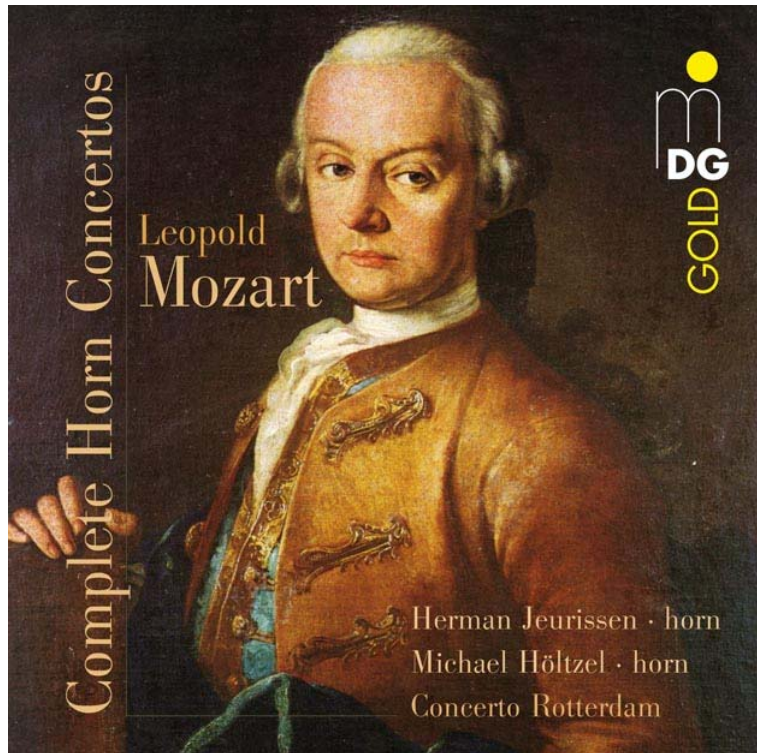


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MDG
GOLD



06/09-(6)

Title:

Leopold Mozart (1719-1787)
Complete Horn Concertos

Musicians:

Herman Jeurissen, horn
Michael Höltzel, horn
Concerto Rotterdam
Heinz Friesen, cond.

1 CD

Order Number:

MDG 321 0085-2

UPC-Code:



Noble Entertainment

Before the birth of his son Wolfgang and the completion of his famous violin course of 1756, Leopold Mozart featured horns in his music. The father of the famous Salzburg composer wrote a number of works for horn and chamber orchestra during the first half of the eighteenth century – robust and vibrant genre pieces for the entertainment of members of the nobility.

Target Practice

Digital recording technique was still in its early days when the MDG sound engineers set up their microphones in the Abbey Church in The Hague. Later mixing of the various channels was not an option. The *Sinfonia da caccia* therefore had to be practiced a number of times until this extraordinary composition for four horns, string orchestra, and shot gun was got just right – complete with thick gun smoke in the Calvinist place of worship. The recording team decided to do without the original barking dogs and the shouting hunters prescribed by Mozart – grateful active listeners were later able to fill this gap.

Personal Preferences

The musicians also gave a hundred percent – and more. Herman Jeurissen wore a shepherd's hat throughout the recording sessions, probably in the belief that this outfit would facilitate his control of the shepherd's horn, a Dutch version – a mere 1.50 meters in length – of the alphorn. Or was he on a secret mission? The organist Ben van Oosten preferred the big sound of the positive division of the

historical church organ to the portable positive brought in especially for the recording and used it to lend each movement a different tone color.

Truant Student

Leopold Mozart got off to a late start as a musician. This son of a bookbinder attended the secondary school and Jesuit college in his hometown and enrolled at the University of Salzburg at the age of eighteen in order to study philosophy and law. Since his lecture attendance was rather infrequent, he had to leave this alma mater in 1739. And so he became a musician and eventually was hired by the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, first as a violinist and then as assistant music director.

Trailblazing Production

For decades Michael Höltzel, the author of the *Hohe Schule des Horns*, taught this great instrumental tradition as a college professor and bore impressive witness to it as a solo hornist in the world's concert halls. Together with his pupils Herman Jeurissen and Vincent Lévesque and the renowned musicians of the Concerto Rotterdam, Höltzel gave the MDG recording team the opportunity to produce this trailblazing recording, which has been sold out for many years. It continues to be an audiophile benchmark and a must buy for all Mozart collectors!